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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-03 ACDA-05 ERDA-05 /083 W
018362

R 180935Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7073
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 5/21/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
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EO 11652 NA
TAGS PFOR MNUC MILI US TW CH UR KS
SUBJECT: UPI INTERVIEW WITH PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO
REF TAIPEI 5546 (NOTAL)

1. ALL SEPTEMBER 18 ENGLISH AND CHINESE-LANGUAGE PRESS CARRIED IDENTICAL VERSIONS OF UPI ITEM DATELINED SEPTEMBER 17 REPORTING AN INTERVIEW WITH PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO (TEXT SEPTEL). ACCORDING TO UPI, THE PREMIER GAVE THE INTERVIEW TO UPI VICE PRESIDENT FRANK BEATTY AND UPI MANAGER OF THE NORTH EAST ASIAN DIVISION FREDERICK MARKS, WHO ARE CURRENTLY VISITING TAIWAN. AS FAR AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE, THIS IS THE FIRST INTERVIEW THE PREMIER HAS GIVEN TO THE PRESS SINCE THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER.

2. ACCORDING TO UPI ITEM THE PREMIER IN HIS INTERVIEW SAID THAT THE ROC HAD THE CAPABILITY TO MANUFACTURE NUCLEAR WEAPONS BUT WOULD NOT DO SO. THAT THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN DEBACLE STRENTHENED THE IMPORTANCE OF NORTHEAST ASIA, AND THE ROK,

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JAPAN, AND THE ROC CONSTITUTE A CHAIN OF DEFENSE WHICH IS IMPORTANT TO THE US; THAT THE ROC DID NOT NEED US TROOPS TO FIGHT FOR THE ROC AND NEEDED ONLY MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL SUPPORT FROM THE US; THAT IT WAS "NOT WISE" FOR THE US TO SEND TROOPS TO FIGHT IN ASIA BUT SINCE THE US HAS ALREADY STATIONED TROOPS IN SOUTH KOREA, HE SAW NO NEED TO CHANGE THE SITUATION THERE; THAT THE EMERGENCE OF FOUR COMMUNIST FCOUNTRIES IN INDO-CHINA WILL INCREASE THE CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE PRC AND THE USSR; AND THAT THE ROC HAS ADEQUATE MANPOWER TO DEFEND ITSELF WITH OUT ASKING FOR HELP FROM TROOPS FROM OTHER COUNTIRES.

3. COMMENT: THE PREMIER'S REMARKS TO UPI REPRESENTATIVES WERE CLEARLY AIMED PRINCIPALLY AT AN INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE--MAINLY US. HIS COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT WERE PROBABLY IN RESPONSE TO PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED USG CONCERNS ABOUT ROC NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT AND RECENT PRESS COMMENTS (E.G., THE LATEST EDITION OF NEWSWEEK) ON NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT. HIS REMARKS ON RECENT CHANGES IN EAST ASIA AS WELL AS THE ASSURANCE THAT US TROOPS WOULD NOT BE NEEDED TO DEFEND THE ROC WERE AIMED AT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND ALSO RESPOND DIRECTLY TO QUESTIONS POSED BY RECENT US VISITORS TO TAIWAN (SUCH AS CODEL ADDABBO - SEE REFTEL).

4. WIDE COVERAGE IN THE LOCAL PRESS OF THE INTERVIEW WITH ITS STRESS ON MILITARY SELF-RELIANCE IS ALSO USEFUL I GROC'S ATTEMPTS TO FURTHER THE "CONDITIONING PROCESS."

UNGER